



“Come Together” Theme for Homecoming



Lisa Suding poses as Abby from NCIS. Spirit Week for Homecoming hosted a favorite Movie/TV show character day. (Photo by Anna Rohaly).

By Anna Rohaly
Staff Writer

Every one loves the Fourth of July. The entire country celebrates with fireworks, cookouts, and parades. It's a time to show how much you love your country and how much fun freedom allows.

In a lot of ways, Spirit Week is a reflection of the celebrations of the 4th. During Spirit Week, we are all given a chance to show our love for both our school and our freedom to have fun and be ourselves. There are many ways to get involved during Spirit Week and two of them are partaking in

the dress up days and the medallion hunt.

Dress up days take place all throughout Spirit Week. The different themes for costumes this year included the 60's, geek day, favorite movie characters, favorite professors, and of course, puma pride. Despite the fun themes and the possible \$10 gift certificate to the Hub, not many people participated. Those who did not participate commented that they lacked costume materials, were informed too late about the themes to prepare, or were feeling lazy. The students who did dress up, however, had lots of fun with their outfits and enjoyed the “What the heck?” response they received from their peers and professors. Next year everyone should dress up because, as the commuter student Elizabeth Gray said, quoting her favorite movie character, “If you don't, the goblins will come and take you away.”

The medallion hunt is another Spirit Week tradition. The medallion is hidden by the Student Union Board each year in different places around campus. Whoever finds the medallion is awarded money for the bookstore. The amount depends on how long it takes to be found. To aid the hunters, clues are emailed out by John May every day. This year, the medallion was hidden in a third floor bathroom in the Halleck Center by Morgan Myers, the SUB Homecoming Traditions Executive who was in

charge of all of the Homecoming activities. Amanda Moore was the student who found the medallion this year, and the student who found it last year as well.

Both the medallion hunt and the dress up days are great ways to

get involved on campus and have some fun. We may not blow up fireworks for spirit week, but that is no reason to not get involved. Let's turn up the spirit next year and add a little more fun to the week!



Dressed as Sarah from Labyrinth, Elizabeth Gray proudly supports Spirit Week on favorite Movie/TV show character day. (Photo by Anna Rohaly).

Official Welcome for New President

By Sabrina Butts
Staff Writer

On Friday, September 18, 2009, our new president was officially installed into the College. President F. Dennis Riegelneegg has now joined the Saint Joseph's College family as our new head, though he had started his work at the beginning of July, filling the spot vacated by former President Mills. President Riegelneegg is the campus' seventeenth president and many are looking forward to working with him.

During the full Mass ceremony, the president received several gifts meant to signify his new office from the college to celebrate his installment. During his comments, however, President Riegelneegg insisted that this was not just for himself, but instead for the campus community.

"We here are a close family. Close families do not fail," said Riegelneegg during his address.

Indeed, the college is a family and the president is holding himself to his word. Many students have mentioned his honest open-door policy, saying that, no matter how busy he is, “He is always available to talk to any student who needs a word with him.”

One thing that is important to the campus is retaining student enrollment. Students who attended are very hopeful about his impact on that. Junior Zachary Mocek said, “When we had our RA and Freshman Leader Dinner with him in early August, he seemed like a very approachable individual and his personality is one we need in order to bring in new students each year.”

For those students who have yet to have the chance to meet him, it would be a good idea just to say hello and talk for a little bit with him. With him working hard for the college, it looks to be a good year to be a Puma.



Dr. F. Dennis Riegelneegg, the new SJC President, speaks at his official Mass of Installation. (Photo courtesy of Bro. Tim Hemm).



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Palascak Does Not Disappoint

By Patricia Roeder
Staff Writer

A lively crowd came to hear comedian Michael Palascak perform September 17th in the theatre. With appearances on the Bob and Tom Show, Comedy Central, and HBO's Lucky 21 Stand-Up Comedy Contest, everyone was excited and eager to be entertained.

Palascak was very laid back and easy going. He familiarized himself with the crowd by including jokes about college, mentioning Indiana cities and the Chicago area, and interacting with the crowd. Though he made fun of himself for being an English major in college, it was evident that it influenced his material. Many of his jokes were puns and witty lines that drew applause from the audience on several occasions. For instance, after mentioning he once drove a red Cherokee, he proceeded to admit that he was being politically incorrect, referring of course to the Native American tribe. Much of his routine was supported by other witticisms and puns, which made his comedy unique when contrasted other performances at Saint Joe's.

As a Hoosier native who currently resides in Chicago, Palascak had home-field advantage with the Puma audience. "The joke about "Hell is Real" on the way to Rensselaer from I-65 was great because I knew what he was talking about," laughed Kathi Corwin, a sophomore. "Being from the



Comedian Michael Palascak "talking with his hands" during his routine on Septmeber 17th.

region added to his performance because people from the audience are from around the same places as him, so he is able to engage the audience in the jokes."

Despite being on the conservative side of the humor spectrum, Palascak was a success on campus. "His jokes were absolutely hilarious," commented junior Elementary Education major Eileen Mills-Groniger.

"I particularly liked the science jokes about tattoos of atoms and moles. It was so original!"

Sophomore Mass Communications major Jeremy Butterfield agrees, "I like how he was interacting with the crowd. He also seemed like he was really approachable, as if he were one of us." All in all, Palascak's appearance was a enjoyable in every aspect.

Don't Shoot

By Amber Melvin
Staff Writer

On Tuesday September 21, the ballroom was buzzing with laser tag. Laser Tag was one of the many events for Homecoming weekend, which was the weekend of September 25- 27.

The game of laser tag can be intense. Before you begin the game, you will be given a plastic gun that is connected to a strap. There is a black box connected to the strap and so is a pair of earphones. The gun has a laser inside of it.

Once you have your gear on, you go over to a station and put the plastic laser gun up to an object that charges your gun for you. About five seconds later, your gun makes a buzzing sound, to let you know that you are ready to begin the game. There are two teams of three people each. Once everybody is geared up and charged, you go out to the game area. Then when you are prompted by the people in charge of the laser tag you point your gun to the opposing team and try to "shoot" them. The shields are there for you to run and hide behind. Whenever your team "shoots" somebody from the opposing team, you get a point and can look up at a scoreboard to see that. The earphones make a sound to let you know that either you have hit somebody or that you have been hit.

Students seemed to really have fun with Laser Tag. In case you were unable to make it to laser tag, the set up was about 10 or so shields. The shields had big sheets over them. Some of them had camouflage; other's had different prints on them.

There was a variety of music to listen to as you played or waited to play. There was a chance to request songs as well.

All in all, Laser Tag had a good turnout. Hopefully it comes back next year.



Upcoming Events

October 1st
SUB Presents The
Todd Carey Band
9:00 PM Ballroom

October 5th-7th
Puma Women Today
Take Back the Night

October 7th
Habitat For
Humanity
Shack City: 7:00 PM
to 7:00 AM

October 8th
SUB Presents
Musical Band Cahill
9:00 PM Ballroom

October 9th-11th
Little Sibs Weekend

October 11th-14th
Busy Student Retreat

October 11th
12:00 PM Women's
Soccer vs Illinois
Springfield

October 11th
2:30 PM Men's
Soccer vs Illinois
Springfield

Ryanhood Rocks the House

By Elyse Hillyer
Omega Editor

The band Ryanhood visited the SJC campus as part of the Homecoming 2009 festivities on Wednesday, September 23rd. The concert started at 9 in the Halleck Center ballroom, which was packed with people eager to see the band. The band had been to the College last year, and this year they made a stop as part of a seven week tour.

Ryanhood is an acoustic band who brought a different style to the students. The acoustic guitars accompanied by smooth vocals provided a relaxing, yet exciting atmosphere. On occasion, Ryan would pull out his mandolin, affectionately called his "elf guitar" and played, say-

ing it was known to have mystical powers.

In addition to their powerful music, they were also a very crowd friendly band. They enjoyed interacting with the audience and encouraged them to sing along. They also joked around and made faces or hand gestures to go along with their songs. Ryanhood even humored a request when someone called out for "Freebird" by jokingly improvising a new version of the song.

Sophomore Elementary Education major Maggie Schmitt said "this live event is not one to miss."

It was a memorable and entertaining night for all who attended. For more information about Ryanhood, visit ryanhood.com or mspace.com/ryanhood.



Ryan Green and Cameron Hood of Ryanhood performing on September 23rd. (Photos courtesy of Elyse Hillyer).

Homecoming: Through the Good Times and the Bad

By Bailey Snider
Guest Columnist

Homecoming 2009 has come and gone. Festivities and celebrations are winding down, and after coming together on Saturday, the students, faculty, and alumni of Saint Joseph's College, as well as participating family members and friends, are preparing to jump back into the schedule of their normal lives. Of course, instead of preparing to return to my normal routine of classes, practices, and schoolwork (which includes a load of reading I have not even begun to think about), I am, instead, reflecting on the weekend and thinking about what it meant to me.

As a senior, this was the first year I actually felt excited about Homecoming. I was looking forward to spending time with friends, old and new, and being involved in all the activities and social adventures. I truly felt, for the first time, that I was going to have that quintessential Homecoming experience—bouncing from one place to the next, having fun at parties, dancing until my feet hurt!

The reason for such hope and enthusiasm on my part was this past March I turned 21. Yes, this Homecoming I was not going

to avoid places where I knew alcohol was going to be served, as I had done the past three years; I did not even want to put myself in that kind of situation. I was of age, and I was going to have as much fun as I possibly could. But as the day wore on, I started to think about it. This mentality, that I was finally going to have fun at Homecoming because I was free to drink (and drink heavily) with a guilt-free conscience, was not something with which I actually agreed.

Since when does everyone have to drink copious amounts of alcohol as a valid excuse to have a good time with friends? Please do not misunderstand, I enjoy drinking socially (and responsibly) and understand that it can be wonderfully fun. But is getting trashed seriously what Homecoming is all about? That's what my attitude seemed to be on Saturday.

But as I realized this, I drank less and less and simply watched the people around me. It was true; most of them were having a fantastic time imbibing and benefiting from that "liquid courage." In fact, most of the evening was a splendid success—everyone was relaxed and comfortable, and much fun was had by all.

As I continued to watch, though, sober and alert, the uglier side of drinking reared its head. Unwanted attentions, fighting and drama in general ensued. Because I was not drunk, I was completely aware of everything going on and could not believe how much I disliked this side effect of drinking. By the end of the night, I had experienced enough drunken pick-up lines, as well as derogatory language and behavior, directed at me and those around me to last a lifetime. I just wanted to get away from the smells and sounds of alcohol and its effects on those who enjoy a little too much and lose the ability to really control what they are doing and/or saying.

Now, in the light of day, I understand that nights like my Homecoming 2009 happen all the time. It seems inevitable—if there is going to be alcohol present, there are always going to be individuals who enjoy that loss of control and inhibition. A part of me almost wishes that I could have been just as drunk as some of last night's party-goers. Then I may not have been as upset by or even as aware of what was happening around me. But another part of me is thankful I know I never have to be that drunk to have a good time. I can

enjoy myself (indeed, I did enjoy the time I spent dancing and conversing, as well as drinking, with friends through the early part of the evening) without consuming so much alcohol I lost my mind. In fact, I never want to lose control to the point I upset close friends because I am being inappropriate and saying things that I would not say were I sober enough to realize the consequences.

Homecoming, or any celebration, should not be about the maximum amount of alcohol one can consume. It should be about enjoying good music, good food, good memories, and the company of good friends. It is about being thankful to Saint Joseph's College that we have all been drawn together and given the chance to get to know each other and will continue to know each other through this campus. I have so many wonderful friends I have met during my time here at SJC. And I am grateful that I can spend time with them that is untainted by copious amounts of alcohol. I have many wonderful memories, and I know there are more to come. Why would I wish to drink so much that I lose the chance to continue creating such wonderful memories?

Why Some Friends Are Better Than Others

By Gloria Thornburg
Guest Columnist

My friends are the best friends in the entire world. This opinion was confirmed over the summer when I got a story-letter in the mail from Aragorn. It was confirmed again when we were dubbed "The Fellowship of the HUB" by a more mysterious author, who was later discovered to be Gandalf. After the product of her ingenuity was discussed, we assigned ourselves identities corresponding to the "Fellowship of the Ring."

Thus Aragorn became Aragorn, Gandalf became Gandalf, and I became Pippin. The character assignments were meaningful, arbitrary, and based on whims; I was required to be a Hobbit because of my short height, but I got to choose between the four of them. I chose Pippin because I think the name is the coolest, but Samwise is about a foot taller than me and was given her character because she is

such a caring, nurturing person.

In contrast to "The Fellowship of the HUB," the "Fellowship of the Ring" is all male, but in our character assignments we chose not to take gender into account. This decision has created a few odd mental images: Legolas has gotten down on one knee and proposed to Merry, Gimli has an amazingly funky sense of style including tie-dye dresses and blue hair, and Samwise and Boromir are in a relationship so official it is on Facebook. All sexual humor aside, we really are mind-boggling.

The nine of us represent six different majors. Some of us are in band; some of us are not. Some of us go to church every Sunday; some of us do not. Frodo is very involved with SUB; the rest of us sit back and let the entertainment come to us. We all take school seriously, but to different extents and in different ways. We really have nothing in common. The only common denominator is that we all get along.

We do not simply get along; we really and truly care about each other. We may tease Aragorn about being a Mass Communications major, but we love his radio show and either have our radios tuned to 93.3 WPUM or go to the station whenever he is on air. No matter how much we joke around, we are supportive of each other.

We understand friendship is an important part of college and of life. I'm not saying my group of friends is perfect, but we seem to have the essentials figured out. In our group's history, there have been conflicts, but no matter how bad things got I never felt any pressure to take sides. I have never heard an ultimatum issued, and I have never been bossed around. It breaks my heart when I see false "friends" make life worse for each other instead of better.

Sometimes when I look outside "The Fellowship of the HUB" I see people who are supposedly friends who have no

mutual respect for each other. Pressuring a third party into choosing a side in an argument is not the way to treat a friend. Breaking promises, betraying trust, and being deliberately distant when a friend is in need are other ways a "friend" shows his true colors. Real friends genuinely care for each other and treat each other as equals.

Hopefully you have not learned the hard way who your real friends are; hopefully you will never have to. I also hope you are a real friend who keeps promises, provides love and support, and are as available to your friends as "The Fellowship of the HUB" is to me. My friends are the light of my world; I hope you can say the same.

To quote Niccolo Machiavelli: "God creates men, but they choose each other." Choose well and be a true friend when you are chosen.

Some Congratulations Are In Order...

By Mike Koscielny
Opinions Editor

As my oh-so-subtle headline surreptitiously indicated, the purpose of my musings today is simple—congratulations. I want take time to congratulate various people, places and organizations that I feel need some recognition for their effort, big or small.

First and foremost, congratulations to the SJC Football team for posting up an impressive 41-7 win over Lincoln University. Every time the football team wins, it's cause for celebration. However, when there is a spectacular win to coincide

with Homecoming, the only way to describe it is by hollering "huzzah!" as loud as you can.

In that same vein, more congratulations should go to any and everyone involved with organizations that in some way, shape or form helped organize and plan Homecoming festivities. These groups include, but are not limited to the Department of Alumni Relations, the Student Union Board, and the entirety of Saint Joseph's College Athletic Department.

Thirdly, congratulations must go to Joel Jager and Anisha Gohil for becoming the Homecoming King and Queen for 2009.

Special congratulations also go to Fr. Tim McFarland C.P.P.S. His dedication to this institution is a godsend (okay, that's an unfair joke... but I couldn't resist). One of the wonderful things he does is document a majority of SJC events with his photography. This newspaper tries to utilize his photography whenever possible. Do me a favour, connect to your interwebs and type into the address bar "http://www.saintjoe.edu/~timm/my_photography.htm". Upon arriving, take in the plethora of photos and the surfeit of snapshots capturing incredible moments at the perfect shutter speed.

Congratulations must also go to every Detroit Lions fan who has been waiting to celebrate a win since December of 2007. As soon as I heard, I called my father (who is a begrudgingly die-hard Lions fan). He put it best, "Well, even a blind bird will find a worm once and a while..." Did I mention he's an optimist?

I must also personally congratulate anyone I'm friends with on Facebook who doesn't play Farmville or Mob Wars because I find the notifications incredibly annoying while I'm trying to distract myself from writing something for the newspaper...

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Shhhh! I'm Trying to Watch the Movie!

By Eileen Mills-Groninger
Staff Writer

I love movies with a passion. I enjoy seeing my favorite actors on the screen, and hearing their voices as they deliver witty dialogue or sing my favorite songs. I even love watching old musicals and foreign films with horrible dubs, but one thing I never really watched until recently was a good old-fashioned silent film. I did not think I would be able to get into a story where I have to pay attention to the screen, but in truth, a silent film is not that complicated to follow. Case in point: Buster Keaton's film, "The General."

This is a story about Johnnie Gray (Keaton), a young train engineer in the South during the Civil War, who is madly in love with Annabelle Lee. All the young men in his hometown get



(Photo courtesy of <http://busterstuff.com/catalog/images/Kino%20General.jpg>)

ready to join the battle, and his Annabelle Lee tells him that she will only marry a Confederate Soldier. He immediately goes to join her brother in the army, but is rejected by the recruiters because of his job. To win back Annabelle Lee, he decides to help the Confederates in any way he can, so he uses his trusty locomotive

to win the fight and win back the heart of his loved one.

Keaton's movie may seem like a war drama, but it is actually a physical comedy and one of the best during that time in cinema. In addition, "The General" also serves as a fairly accurate depiction of the South during the Civil War. According to Dave Robinson, a film historian (quoted at http://www.kino.com/theatrical/th_item.php?film_id=115), "Every shot has the authenticity and the unassuming correct composition of a Mathew Brady Civil War photograph."

There are several famous scenes in this movie, including an actual train falling to its doom from a burning bridge. These were not small feats in the 1920s, but Buster Keaton did a magnificent job directing and starring in this film, and if you are at all appreciative of history, you should find this film and watch



(Photo courtesy of <http://rjbuffalo.com/images/buster/gen-quiet.jpg>)

it. It is a fabulous way to spend 75 minutes of your time, and if you pick up the DVD you will find two more gems from Buster Keaton's collection: "Cops," and "The Playhouse," both of which showcase the genius and talent of one of the greats. Take a break from all the noise and confusion

of your dorm life, and enjoy the silence of the original silver screen.

Beggars Should be Choosing Thrice's Latest

By Michael Garrity
Staff Writer

You think I would have learned by now. To say that Thrice have not released a bad album since their sophomore effort way back in 2002 is an understatement. In fact, every album they have released in that time has shown their progression as musicians and songwriters and have all been arguably great records. Yet, I always seem to underestimate just how good this band is.

Sure, I loved *The Illusion of Safety* and *The Artist in the Ambulance* (their second and third albums, respectively), but boy was I hesitant to try out everything after. Low and behold, it happened again with the release of their sixth (or seventh or ninth, depending on how you classify their ambitious *Alchemy Index* project) studio album. Partially because it was squeezed in between two releases I was really looking forward to (Fun's *Aim and Ignite* and Brand New's *Daisy*, stay tuned for the next issue!) and partially because *The Alchemy Index* was so incredible

in its scope and execution that I was not sure where they would be able to go from there. I was once again proven wrong with *Beggars*.

With this album Thrice



(Photo courtesy of <http://www.livethescene.com/news/images/thrice%20group.jpg>)

pull their weight in proving that Evolution is more than just a theory, because if there were any example of a band growing beyond their roots, this is it. In

many ways, this album is a conglomeration of much of the work they did in the past, as one can hear elements of *The Artist in the Ambulance*, *Vheissu*, and *The Alchemy Index* in many of the songs. Still, this album is very much its own and certainly

establishes a unique atmosphere and meaning over its forty-three minutes.

Starting the album is "All the World is Mad," the most traditionally Thrice sounding song on the album. Not much else is "traditional" in line with the band's past albums. Singer/

guitarist Dustin Kensrue's lyrics are much more focused on political and social commentary on this album than ever before. Though he never shied away from making a statement (see "Cold Cash, Colder Hearts" from *The Artist in the Ambulance*), it is far more frequent on this record. "All the World is Mad," "Doublespeak," and "Beggars" all deal with ideas of government corruption and the collective loss of morality in society. "Wood and Wire" tells the story of a wrongly convicted man on death row. Perhaps the most disturbing lyrics, however, are in the song "At the Last," which questions the very nature of what it means to be a good person.

The rhythm section that consists of the Breckenridge Brothers (Ed on bass and Riley on drums) are in top form on this album. Songs like "The Weight," "Doublespeak," and especially "Beggars" show off their abilities and help propel the album to

greatness. That being said, no man in this band is the "weak link," and all four of them came to play, so to speak. Kensrue's vocals, which improve with each album, are the best I have ever heard them.

What really stands out about this album though, are the songs. "The Weight" may have the best chorus they have ever written, while "Circles" is easily the most beautiful song in the band's catalog, the kind that can give you goose bumps if you listen to it in the right mood. Though one would not think that a song about being an exile would be too upbeat, "In Exile" is actually the catchiest track on the album and possibly the most radio-friendly effort that Thrice have ever released. Tracks 6-8 really show the band experimenting with arrangements and traditional songwriting approaches. Neither "At the Last" nor "Wood and Wire" have conventional choruses, and the track "Talking Through Glass/We Move Like Swing Sets" is actually two songs in one (obviously), with the slower acoustic piece followed by a much heavier song with an incredibly powerful chorus. The title track, "Beggars," ends the album, which may be the best decision the band made during the making of this record. In addition to having wonderful lyrics, which sum up very well the major themes of the album, the music is at a constant crescendo until it erupts at the end, sufficiently sending the listener home happy.

So, although I should not have been, I was pleasantly surprised with how tremendous this album is. Easily one of my favorite releases of the year thus far. It is great to see a band I grew up with mature right along with me, and *Beggars* is a perfect display of Thrice's progression. One of the best bands around today and if you have yet to check

them out, go pick up this album, or just download "In Exile," and see what you have been missing!

Best Songs: "The Weight" "Beggars" "Circles" and "In Exile"

Band: Thrice

Album: Beggars

Tracklisting:

1. All the World is Mad
2. The Weight
3. Circles
4. Doublespeak
5. In Exile
6. At the Last
7. Wood and Wire
8. Talking Through Glass/We Move Like Swing Sets
9. The Great Exchange
10. Beggars

Band personnel:

Dustin Kensrue - Vocals and Guitar
Teppei Teranishi - Guitar and Keyboards
Riley Breckenridge - Drums
Ed Breckenridge - Bass

Release Info:

Date: August 11, 2009 (Digital) and September 15, 2009 (physical)

Label: Vagrant Records
Producer(s): Thrice and Teppei Teranishi



(Photo courtesy of <http://aconstantrefrain.files.wordpress.com/2009/08/259h4xz.jpg>)

A Reflection on a Life of Organized Chaos

By Jennifer Ruff
Features Editor

I sit here on a Sunday evening, knowing that I need to write this article for the paper, but I also start to think of all the other tasks I need to complete before I can safely close my eyes at night and how late that is ultimately going to be. How did I let my life get this busy?

At the beginning of my college career, I was very slow on the College's motto of "Getting Involved" (as all of you would know if you read my article from last week). My excuse for all of that was the fact that I was getting used to this new and strange place called college and was not the most active in high school, and therefore was simply falling into my old pattern.

This all changed in the middle of my sophomore year as I began to think about forming a



(Photo courtesy of <http://www.childrens-educationalbooks.com/images/stress-management-for-kids.jpg>)

resume, what I would put on it, and if it would impress my future employers. I realized I need to take more leadership in my life and begin to be more active in the college experience. That's when I went into things that interested me, including theater and The Observer.

By the start of my junior year, I was on a new kind of kick where I kept telling myself that I wouldn't be here forever. I decided that I want to leave here

without regrets. I do not want to be sitting around after graduation thinking to myself "I wish I would have tried that!" or "Man, maybe I should have joined that club or ran for its president!" This idea started a monster inside of me. I began to stretch myself very thin for various clubs and activities. I found myself forgetting about things such as sleep. It took a short time to realize that I was drowning in my sea of extra curricular chaos. Then one day I sat down and attempted to organize my chaos. It was then that I discovered my multiple schedule solution. I would simply have a planner with me wherever I was to assure myself that I would stay on task and not forget anything.

Now I'm a senior, with a million things obsessively scheduled and a future wedding to plan. I sit back and look at everything saying "How in the

world do I do all of this?" The sad thing is, I don't have an answer to that question. The same thing can be said for the question "Why do you stretch yourself so thin?" I have no reply because I simply do not know. I know that I enjoy the things that I do and that it makes me happy doing them. I guess I'm just willing to suffer every now and then for things that make me happy in the long run.

You might be sitting there reading this rant asking yourself what the point is in all of this. The point is to learn from the sleep deprived senior who typed this rant. This is a message for everyone, especially freshmen: pace yourselves and do not stretch yourself if you are not that flexible. Oh, and although I fully support the College in the idea of getting involved, I recommend you step back and get your planners ready first!

Roommate Simulator

By Andrew Dudich
Staff Writer

Most college students have roommates, and if you are one of the select few that do not, you might consider yourself lucky. However, you are missing out on meeting that special person that you want to both hug and pull your hair out over. Close quarters can make any relationship stressful, and conflicts are bound to arise.

This week, the *Observer* has put together this handy simulation to help you choose the best method of solving any disagreements you may encounter with your roommate. When you come to the end of a section, you will have a choice of how to respond to your roommate. Their reaction may be either positive or negative depending on your choice. Remember, if you end up ruining your friendship in the simulator, you can always try again. Your imaginary roommate is probably more forgiving than the real life counterpart. Whenever you're ready, meet your new roommate for the first time by jumping to #4.

1. The familiar smell of a car that should have been retired ten years ago keeps you awake all night. The next day you find out that by "friend," your roommate meant "really hot cousin they were going to hook you up with." Way to overreact. Sulk down to #10.

2. "Get your butt over here right now! My arms are turning to spaghetti!" Your new roommate turns to face you for the first time and gives you a dirty glare. Reluctantly, they rise out of the only good chair in the room and move the pile blocking your entry. You set down the refrigerator against the wall and notice that your roommate has already taken the top bunk with the good mattress. Your roommate pats you on the back and asks if you want to go to dinner. You agree and arrive at the cafeteria. They immediately

sit down at the only inhabited table, but it's overflowing with people you can't stand. If you sit next to your roommate anyway, skip down to #6. If you sit by yourself in the corner of the room and listen to Bright Eyes while you write emotional poetry, continue to #8.

3. Oh no you didn't! Seriously? You didn't just do that! Go back to #7 and pick again.

4. Burdened down with two backpacks and a refrigerator, you ascend the staircase towards your new room for the semester. You locate your room number in the maze of hallways and find that your roommate has already arrived and thrown their belongings all around the room, most of which seem to be forming a pyramid in front of the doorway. The refrigerator pulls at your arms, and you feel like you'll soon be the first person who can touch their toes without bending over. You kindly ask your roommate if they could move the barricade for you can set down the refrigerator.

"Hold on," they say. "I'm busy checking out relationship statuses on Facebook." If you patiently wait, stretch your eyes down to #7. Jump back to #2 if you tell them, "Get your butt over here right now!"

6. It might not be that bad. You sit down next to your roommate and try to strike up a conversation with the annoying person across from you. After they stare at you blankly, you attempt to talk to your roommate instead. Some delightful banter yields you with the discovery that both of you have a passion for yoga. You agree to wake up early the next morning to work on your tree technique. It looks like a friendship is brewing. Warm up for the next day by stretching down to #10.

7. After standing for five minutes, your arms feel like Jell-O. Your roommate looks up, surprised that you've waited

this whole time and hurries over to help you out. They kick their stuff under the bed and help you guide the refrigerator into the room. Next, you both take a page from the book of college *feng shui* and throw clothes all around the room to give it the "lived-in" feel. After a hearty handshake on a job well done, you head to the HUB together for some munchies. On the way back, your roommate reveals that they want to have a "friend" over for the night. If you tell them they're welcome to the lounge, skip down to #9. If you tell them you'll sleep in your car tonight, shift up to #1. If you tell them their mom looks like a cross between Albert Einstein and a pygmy goat, gloat with pride up to #3.

8. After a long hard week of classes, you trudge drearily back to your dorm after a late night at the library. You try to open your door, but it seems that your roommate has stuck a chair under the doorknob inside. Your roommate made friends with your RA all week long while you sat by yourself. Looks like you're sleeping in the lounge tonight. Trudge down to #10.

9. "I understand," your roommate replies. After grabbing some pillows, your roommate heads down to the lounge for the night with their mysterious stranger. You enjoy the warmth of your blankets as you congratulate yourself on standing up for yourself. Beam with pride down to #10.

10. This is only one way events might unfold. You really won't know what your roommate will be like unless you get to know them. Communication is key in any relationship, and living with someone is no different. Give them a chance to make the right choice, and they'll respect you for it. If you have continuous problems with a roommate, talk to your RA about it. If you have a roommate you simply can't live with, don't worry too much. Room changes are allowed for a reason.

Heart of Darkness, Not Just For Class

By Sabrina Butts
Staff Writer

Just because a book is for class doesn't mean that it's a bad one. I've found that the books that I read in my Core classes and for my other classes are much more interesting than I first gave them credit for. Goodness knows, after all, that I would never have picked up "The Things They Carried" or "The Color of Water," if I had not been told to read them in Core 1. These ended up being some of the best reads of the semester. So I was perfectly prepared to give the novella for my 20th Century class a chance, despite it being a required reading.

The novella by Joseph Conrad, named *Heart of Darkness*, leaves things very ambiguous for the reader. So much of what is important is not spoken out loud specifically, but is instead conveyed in the very careful choice of words he uses. I won't give away too much of the plot, but even after reading it, the reader is not quite sure who

has the heart of darkness, or, more to the point, who does not.

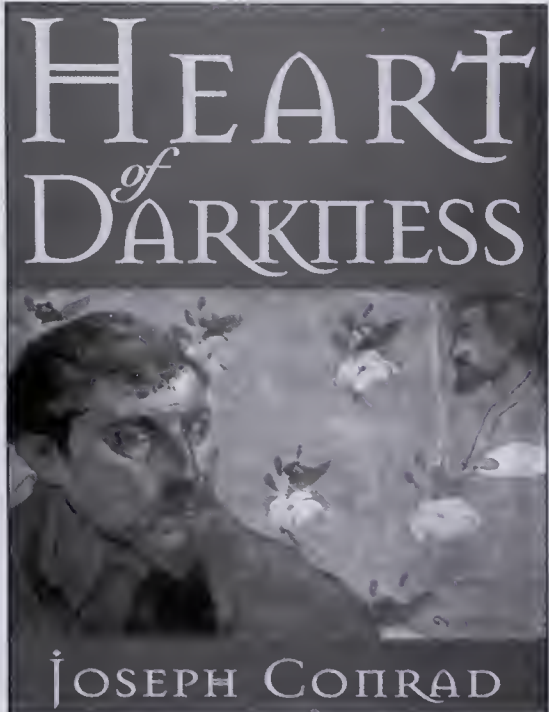
The story is told by a narrator, listening to a shipmate describe an adventure to "the dark continent," which is Africa. He goes deep into the jungle and meets with many people who are part of the Company collecting ivory from the natives to sell

all over the world, maybe not necessarily in very civil ways.

The main part of the story consists of Marlow, the storyteller we are listening to, going to collect a manager by the name of Kurtz, who is very ill and needs help.

The story is very fast paced and keeps moving right along, unlike many stories from that time period. I moved through it quickly and had a great time, with the mix of dialogue and storytelling being interrupted now and then to remind us that this story is being told to us secondhand.

I am still occasionally surprised how often I enjoy readings for class, but this one was well worth it. I highly recommend not just reading this novella but to also give all of your assigned readings a chance. Sometimes you come out with a gem. If I were to give this book a rating, I'd give it 4 out of 5.



(Picture courtesy of <http://sexualityinart.files.wordpress.com/2008/03/heart-of-darkness-paul-gauguin.jpg>)

Bears and Colts Look to Overcome Injuries

By Jeremy Butterfield,
Staff Writer

Most major injuries in the NFL occur in the first week of the regular season. Since pre-season games are essentially just fast practices, it can be difficult for players to come into the first game of the season at full strength. Furthermore, most teams rest their starters during the last preseason game to make sure they are well rested for the regular season.

Sometimes, however, this precaution doesn't pay off, as was the case with Brian Urlacher and Anthony Gonzalez. They were both hurt during week one of the regular season, and they are both vital components of their respective teams.

Brian Urlacher is the popular middle linebacker for the Chicago Bears. When he was injured during the first half of the Bears' season opener against the Green Bay Packers, second string outside linebacker Hunter Hillenmeyer was forced into action.

Brian Urlacher was a team leader, the face of the defense, and a fearful force for any opposing quarterback to reckon with. Urlacher has been a key player for the Bears since 2000, and he brought the phrase "Monsters of the Midway" back to Chicago as other teams started fearing the Bears defense once again.

This year, he will miss the entire regular season for the first time in his career with a dislocated wrist, the most games he has missed since 2004 when he missed 7 games.

The Bears' defense, despite the loss of Urlacher, can still be tough to face come Sunday.

Hillenmeyer started at the outside linebacker position seven plus years and has an exceptional knowledge of the defense. In their September 20 game against the defending Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers, Hillenmeyer earned high marks from the Bears coaches for his handling of the defense.

Lovie Smith calling the plays on defense will be another factor in keeping the defense together.

Urlacher will surely be missed this season, but with Hillenmeyer's experience and the presence of four-time pro bowl outside linebacker Lance Briggs, the Bears defense should still manage to be a dominant group.

Anthony Gonzalez is a third year wide receiver for the Indianapolis Colts. After two years of getting adjusted to the NFL, many experts were predicting this season to be his coming out party. But before he could even make a catch, Gonzalez injured his knee while running a route in the Colts' week one game against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

He will be out until at least October 25th when the Colts travel to St. Louis to take on the Rams. Considered to be the second best receiver on the team behind nine year veteran Reggie Wayne, Gonzalez was expected to fill the void left by Marvin Harrison who, along with Peyton Manning, holds the record for most receptions and receiving touchdowns between a quarterback and receiver with 965 and 114, respectively.

There will be a lot more pressure on Wayne and tight end Dallas Clark to make big

plays, which will be difficult since defenders will be able to pay more attention to them. Anthony had 1,240 receiving yards his first two years despite having only 94 receptions. Very few wide receivers can say they caught so few passes while racking up so many yards. Marvin Harrison was a great player for the Colts,

and many people are saying that Gonzalez will be the next big thing in Indianapolis. With his injury, he is lucky that he does not need surgery that could affect him years down the road.

Even though Urlacher and Gonzalez are key members of their teams, the Bears and Colts have both played well so far. The Bears are talented enough on defense to where

they do not need #54 to win games. The Gonzales injury does hurt the Colts, but they have enough proven and talented players to still have a successful season.

TOP: Anthony Gonzalez streaks past Baltimore Raven Domonique Foxworth.

BOTTOM: Brian Urlacher stares down an opponent.



Softball Team Aims to Break More Records

By Kara Kristoff,
Sports Editor

After impressively finishing fourth in the Great Lakes Valley (GLVC) Conference last spring and making a trip to East Peoria, Ill. for the Conference tournament, the Saint Joseph's College softball team hopes for even better results for the 2010 season.

Primarily a very young team last year with six starting freshmen and sophomores, this year's team won't be much different.

"We've added eight very talented freshmen, two of them pitchers who will see a lot of game time for freshmen," said Head Coach Frank Wilkins. "I'm hoping that the fall season games will help the freshmen grow up quickly, because we will need their help just as much as we need it from the upperclassmen."

Last season, the Pumas broke every school softball record. The team achieved the most wins (27) in school history, while sophomore psychology major Rachel Weaver and sophomore biology and chemistry major Brittne Boerema were named First Team All-Conference last season as freshmen.

After losing two-time First Team All-Conference pitcher and

elementary education major Sara Somogyi, the Pumas are dependent on freshman pitcher and psychology major Sarah Franklin to fill Somogyi's shoes.

"Although we were a very young team last year, the girls exceeded my expectations beyond belief. With the depth of returning players and incoming players, I believe we are the most talented team in the

College's history," said Wilkins. "I believe our team will finish in the top two in the conference this year, and our main goal is to make it to the regional tournament."

The Pumas began their fall season on September 19, 2009 with a double-header at Valparaiso University. The team lost two very close games (6-5 and 7-5) to the Crusaders, but they are still holding their heads high.

"I was very pleased with the way we played against a Division-I school. We were ahead the entire first game and gave up five runs in the seventh inning. We should have won that game, but that was our first game as a new team and we challenged their team," said junior political science major Stephenie Hash. "All four of our young pitchers (three freshmen and one sophomore) pitched

great against some tough hitters; I have big expectations for this season."

The Pumas were on the road at Indiana State University for four tough games, three of them against D1 schools: Indiana University, Indiana State University, and Butler University. The final game was against Saint Mary's of the Woods College. The Pumas finished 2-2 on the weekend.

The women have home games on October 3 against Purdue North Central and Saint Joseph's College of Calumet and are at Purdue University for two games against Indiana University Southeast and Purdue University on October 11.

The Pumas have the deck stacked in their favor to break school records again this year, and hopefully they can play to their potential and win a conference title for the first time.



Head Coach Frank Wilkins expects a lot out of his team this year. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.)

Women's Tennis Stays Undefeated

By Michael Hagen,
Sports Information Intern

After coming off two impressive showings last week including an upset win over Division-1 Valparaiso University, the Saint Joseph's College women's tennis team continued to dominate their opponents. It was all SJC as the Pumas recorded a 9-0 win over Mount Mary College of Milwaukee, Wisc. on Friday.

This was a great start to SJC's homecoming weekend, with all six singles players and three doubles teams winning in impressive fashion. Five of the six singles starters remain undefeated. SJC's number one singles player, Katee Sanderson, (fr., Michigan City, Ind.) beat Blue Angels number one singles player Brittany Kaurich (jr., Muskego, Wisc.) 6-0, 6-0, setting the tone for the match.

This 6-0, 6-0 trend continued with Heather Esker (fr., Effingham, Ill.) shutting out Alyssa Davis (jr., Brookfield, Wisc.) and Anisha Gohil (sr., Kokomo, Ind.) beating Megan Herdema (fr., Waukesha, Wisc.). Samantha Bush (so., Clarendon Hills, Ill.), Kara Paroubek (fr., De Pere, Wisc.), and Jordan Orner (sr., Avon, Ind.) all defeated their opponents.



Senior Anisha Gohil of Kokomo, Ind., is one of five undefeated singles players for the women's tennis team. She defeated her singles opponent 6-0, 6-0 Friday when SJC faced Mount Mary College. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.)

The SJC doubles teams also dominated with Orner and Gohil winning at two doubles 8-0. Sanderson and Esker and Paroubek and Busch won 8-1 at one and three doubles, respectively. There was no looking back for the Pumas as they added another win to their exhibition season record. The women's team now stands at 3-0

as they look to continue their impressive showings at the Saint Joseph's College Invitational October 3 at the SJC tennis courts. The match is scheduled to start at 9 a.m. CDT.

Pumas "Come Together" to Defeat Lincoln University

By Ben Kalinowski,
Staff Writer

The Saint Joseph's College football team posted a blowout victory over the Lincoln University Blue Tigers (0-5) Saturday afternoon in front of a large and enthusiastic homecoming crowd.

Students, alumni, and parents alike found many reasons to cheer during SJC's homecoming game as the offense erupted for 41 points. Junior running back Jashon Banks (Kankakee, Ill.) carried the ball 23 times for

155 yards and two touchdowns.

The Puma defense was just as impressive, giving up only one touchdown early in the fourth quarter. They held Blue Tigers quarterback Josh Goffigan (jr., Myrtle Beach, SC) to one completion on six attempts for sixteen yards. Goffigan ran for 31 yards and a touchdown but lost 39 yards on the ground as the Pumas recorded three sacks, two by sophomore Sam Gonzales (Valparaiso, Ind.).

The Pumas now stand at 3-2 on the year as they travel to Texas next weekend to take on the Sam Houston State University Bearkats (1-2).

The Pumas will not be at home again until October 24 when they take on Kentucky Wesleyan.



Jashon Banks ran for 155 yards and two touchdowns Saturday against the Blue Tigers. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, C.P.P.S.)

Puma Track Profile: Tadd Hettinger

By Ben Kalinowski
Sports Editor



Tadd Hettinger is a senior Sports Management major on the track and field team at SJC. (Photo by SJC Sports Information)

Year? Senior

Major? Sports Management

Hometown? Rochester, Indiana

Favorite Professional Athlete? Jeremy Wariner, Olympic track runner.

When did you start running? I started running in third grade. Our gym teacher had us do timed races, and I haven't stopped running since.

What is your favorite event to run in track? The anchor leg of the 4X4

What are your plans after SJC? I'd like to be a scout for a professional sports organization.

Greatest Sports Movie? Without Limits: Steve Prefontaine

Should the New England Patriots lose their Super Bowl rings? Yes, because they cheated.

If you didn't run track, what sport would you play? Football

Who is your role model? The Flash, because he loves to run.

What is your favorite track memory? When I qualified for nationals and was named conference athlete of the year during the same meet.

Blondes or Brunettes? Without a doubt - BLONDES!

Best team to use in Madden '10? Broncos baby!

What do you love most about running? The adrenaline rush of beating people and passing someone at the last second to win a race.

Who wins in a race between you and Forrest Gump? It depends on what kind of race it is. Short distance, I win. Long distance, he wins.

Men's Golf Team Welcomes New Coach

By Ben Kalinowski,
Staff Writer

For a team that has struggled the last few years, the Saint Joseph's College men's golf team looks to be on the upswing. With a dedicated new coach, three experienced seniors, and some promising young talent, the team is looking to make a splash in the GLVC this year.

Head Coach Ken Badylak, who was named the head coach of the women's golf team in July of 2008 and assumed the duties of head coach of the men's golf team in June 2009, is looking to provide more stability and

dedication to the team than there has been in years past.

The return of seniors Zach Morris (Frankfort, Ind.), Travis Ranegar (who led all returning players with an 18-hole average of 79.2 last year) of Valparaiso, Ind., and Joel Hanger (Lake Village, Ind.), as well as junior Jacob Pelletier (Whiting, Ind.), will give the Pumas the experience needed to help the freshmen develop both on and off the golf course. Their experience should make Badylak's job a lot easier.

Karma and the Cosmos



By Mystical Martha

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)
This week, you discover someone has changed all your phone contacts to the names of Pokemon. You spend the rest of the week texting Charizard and Jigglypuff with no idea who they really are.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May. 19)
You will be accosted by a motorcycle gang on your way to work for the next three days. You eventually realize they won't find you if you take a different route and you feel smart once you figure this out.

Gemini (May 20-June 20)
You will be confronted in the dark by a man dressed as a gorilla. He asks you for a piece of gum, but leaves disappointed and with bad breath because you have no gum.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)
You are in a spontaneous mood lately. Be careful not to injure yourself while climbing a tree or diving in a bush to scare your friends.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)
You find one day that everything in your room has been switched to the opposite side of the room. It is all a mirror image and words on posters are backwards too.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)
If it is windy, you should take the opportunity to go fly a kite. Just watch out for random lightning bolts from Canada. Remember, electricity has already been invented you Ben Franklin wannabes.

Libra (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)
This week you will be very persuasive and people will believe anything you say. Take advantage and tell them grass tastes like cookies. The mowing crew will thank you.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Your significant other will mistake your shadow for you and take it out on a date this weekend. You will be forced to sit alone and watch Lifetime.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)
Beware if you own something polka dotted because polka dots are plotting to take over the world by force within the week. Burn your stuff while there's still time.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)
You will find ten dollars stuck between your toes when you go to take a shower. Oddly, the date on the bill will be the same as the

year of your birth. You spend the rest of the shower in confusion, yet pleased to be ten dollars richer.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)
You discover a lobster has been living under your bed when it pinches your foot and steals your socks one morning. Go to Wal-Mart and pick up some Lobster-B-Gone to solve the problem.

Pisces (Feb. 18-Mar. 20)
You wake up to find your television has doubled in size. Normally this would be exciting, but sadly, it continues to grow throughout the day until you can no longer fit into your room.

Overheard

If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to ehq7585@saintjoe.edu today to let your peers' voices be heard!

~
"I'm a hobo in training."

~
"I assume...I've never had Poseidon's staff inside me."

~
"I just fondled a founding member of the school!"

~
"Are you seductively sipping your cocoa?"

~
"I'm so Italian!"

~
"I was like 'Girl, you don't need crutches, I'll carry you!' I don't think she heard me though."

~
"Now my underpants are singing country songs about women called Loretta."

Every issue we will be including a spotlight on all of the Measure submitters. We will be taking the best submissions and including them here, in the Measure Spotlight! If you have any poems or short stories you would like to submit, let us know. Send them to Elysse Hillyer at ehq7585.

Fact of the Matter

Sloths take two weeks to digest their food.

The fortune cookie was invented by George Jung, a Los Angeles noodlemaker.

In Bavaria, beer isn't considered an alcoholic drink, but rather, a staple food.

Guam has seven public elementary schools.

Leonardo da Vinci could write with one hand and draw with the other at the same time.

Between 25% and 33% of the population sneeze when exposed to light.

In Greek culture, brides carry a lump of sugar in their wedding glove. It is supposed to bring sweetness to their married life.

Courtesy of www.angelfire.com/ca6/uselessfacts/

Measure Spotlight

Our Serious Business

Love is to open sky as loathing is to a clogged toilet without a plunger.
There may be smears.
There may be no toilet paper when you need it.
There may be some pee on the seat.
Sometimes the plunger just won't be there.
But everyone has their business.
And damn it when the job needs to be done it gets done one way or another.
Love.
It's a messy business.

By Dan Zimmer

Words of Wisdom

"Always remember that the future comes one day at a time."
Dean Acheson

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."
Mother Teresa

"A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile the moment a single man contemplates it, bearing within him the image of a cathedral."
Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Courtesy of www.brainyquote.com

Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for October 1
(219) 866-2222
fountainstonetheaters.com

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs (G)
Mon.-Thurs. 5:00, 7:00

Fame (PG)
Mon.-Thurs. 4:40, 6:40

Jennifer's Body (R)
Mon.-Thurs. 4:50, 6:50

Pandorum (R)
Mon.-Thurs. 4:30, 6:30

Surrogates (PG-13)
Mon.-Thurs. 5:10, 7:10

Coming Soon!

Zombieland
(10-2-09)

Couples Retreat
(10-9-09)

Where the Wild Things Are
(10-16-09)

Saw VI
(10-23-09)

The Ritz Cinema

Movies for October 1
(219) 866-0086
www.ritzcinema.net

The Hangover (R)
Every night at 7:30

Coming Soon!

Julie and Julia
Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince

The Solution

The solution was hydrochloric acid; the problem was, therefore, a dead body.
First on the checklist, clean the blood off the floor
...and bathtub, sink, and mirror.
Replace everything knocked over, no signs of a struggle.
Sneak out to the woods, mangle the body with acid.
Drive to my uncle's farm in the dead of night, feed the remains to the pigs.
Flee to Cuba.

By Elysse Hillyer